

Washington, DC - Rep. Peter Welch today announced that the Barre City Supervisory Union and the Addison Rutland Supervisory Union, partnering with Castleton State College, have received nearly \$2 million in federal Teaching American History grants.

The United States Department of Education has announced that the Barre City Supervisory Union will receive \$969,654.00 for a program entitled "Freedom and Unity: Reading and Writing about History."

The Addison Rutland Supervisory Union and Castleton State College will receive \$957,426 through the grant program for a program entitled "The Enduring Legacy of the American Revolution: Liberty, Freedom, and Equality."

"I am thrilled two Vermont school districts are being awarded these very significant grants to improve the teaching of American history in our local schools. These grants will not only help improve history education for our students, but they will do so by involving the larger community in teaching our children," said Welch.

In his letter in support of the Barre City grant application, Welch wrote, "This collaboration seeks to inspire teachers and students to connect their Vermont heritage to the larger national story, and focuses effectively on reading and literacy skills."

This year, the Teaching American History program will award 122 new grants worth \$116.6 million to school districts in 40 states nationwide. The grant program supports three-year projects to improve teachers' knowledge and understanding of traditional American history through intensive, on-going professional development.

Grantees must work in partnership with one or more organizations that have extensive knowledge of American history, including libraries, museums, nonprofit history or humanities organizations, and higher education institutions. The Teaching American History grant program seeks to improve student achievement by immersing history teachers in American history content and researched-based teaching strategies to help them teach in an exciting and engaging way.

More information about Teaching American History grants is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/index.html>

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